

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1, 2, and 4-32 are pending in the application.

Claims 4-10 are objected to as dependent on a cancelled claim.

Claims 27-29 are rejected as being indefinite, as it is unclear what is meant by "the second extremity a first stop".

Claims 1, 2, 19-24, 30, and 32 have been rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,753,086 to Schmidt ("Schmidt").

Claim 30 is rejected as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, obvious over Schmidt.

Claims 4-18, 25, and 31 have been indicated to contain allowable subject matter.

Applicant's Response

Applicant notes with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 4-18, 25, and 31.

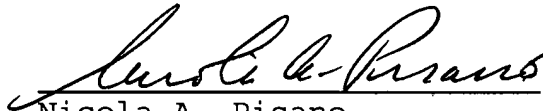
Applicant has amended claim 27 from "the second extremity a first stop" to "the second extremity comprising a first stop". Because claim 27 has been amended to clarify the scope of the claim, and claims 28-29 depend from claim 27, it is respectfully submitted that the indefiniteness rejection of claims 27-29 has been obviated.

With respect to rejections over Schmidt, claim 1 has been amended to include all the limitations of claim 11, which has been indicated to contain allowable subject matter. Claim 21 has been amended to include all the limitations of claim 31, which also has been indicated to contain allowable subject matter. In view of the foregoing amendments, applicant

submits that the prior-art based rejections are overcome, and all pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Nicola A. Pisano", is written over a horizontal line.

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